




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mount Gravatt Community Centre

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.34 pm): The Mount Gravatt Community Centre is a well-loved hub in the Mansfield electorate that has a wonderful reputation for the delivery of high-quality programs and services that benefit the whole community. The centre was established in 1990 by state Labor member Judy Spence. It was a Labor government that purchased and renovated 1693 Logan Road through the then department of communities, disability services and seniors, formerly the department of family services and aboriginal and islander affairs. The centre's four core services and program areas are aged and disability care, the neighbourhood centre, the Ways to Wellness program and training.

Firstly, the centre offers a range of supports for our young-at-heart residents to enable people to retain their independence and live in their own homes. This includes support for a regional assessment service and aged-care assessments.

The neighbourhood centre works with other agencies and organisations to collaboratively deliver flexible, responsive and holistic services for the community. The centre provides information and referrals, individual and family support, and community services programs. This includes holding community markets, iftar dinners, multicultural days, activity sessions, vaccination pop-up clinics and running donation drives for back to school. Recently, the centre's food pantry received \$111,305 from the Palaszczuk government's Food Rescue Grant Program to purchase a new refrigerated vehicle and employ a truck driver to cater for the increased demand in food resource operations as the cost of living rises.

In 2019 the centre's Ways to Wellness program was established with seed funding of \$100,000 from the Palaszczuk government. The program was initiated by myself in conjunction with the University of Queensland and the Queensland Community Alliance, drawing on leading research from the United Kingdom and in response to an issue that I was hearing about when I spoke to my constituents at their doors, on the phone and at local shopping centres. The aim of the program is to address and reduce social isolation in my electorate by implementing a social prescribing model through the engagement of a social worker.

Since 2018, the centre has delivered nine Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. The Palaszczuk Labor government has proudly funded over \$786,100 to skill up and support people to secure work in my community. The centre has worked with over 160 disadvantaged Queenslanders, 91 of whom have secured employment as a direct result of the program. The program contributes to the low unemployment rate of 1.3 per cent experienced in my community. I congratulate CEO Deb Crompton and her staff for delivering these services to our community to ensure all can experience the hope and dignity of a good job.